

Compromise offer on Land Rover

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to make a Commons statement next Tuesday, announcing a compromise deal for British Leyland privatization...

Popular approval for royal pairing

By Alan Hamilton

More than three-quarters of the public approve the pairing of Prince Andrew with Miss Sarah Ferguson, an opinion poll conducted yesterday by BBC Television's Breakfast Time programme suggests.



Miss Sarah Ferguson paused briefly on the doorstep of her office in London when she arrived back at work yesterday.

Trawler crew of five lost in Irish Sea

By Peter Davenport

The five-man crew of a trawler were all presumed to have drowned last night after their vessel capsized in force 10 gales in the Irish Sea.

possibly as she was running for shelter. "It must be presumed all five men have drowned. The search for survivors was intensive but has now been called off."

Tomorrow Hooray for Hollywood Behind the Oscars - how the stars get down to back-biting and infighting in the run-up to the Academy Awards

Portfolio The Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr M.C. Normington of Twickenham.

One dead in Paris blast One person was killed and 21 injured - nine seriously - when an explosion ripped through the ground floor of an arcade in the Champs Elysees, Paris, last night.

Teachers' vote Scottish teachers have voted 8-1 in favour of a 15 per cent, two-year pay deal, according to preliminary ballot results.

Labour purge A concerted national purge of Militant Tendency supporters is being planned by leading Labour right-wingers but party headquarters will not be involved.

Date for D The D prefix on vehicle registration plates will continue until October 1987, the Department of Transport announced.

Chirac is appointed and names ministers

From Diana Geddes Paris M Jacques Chirac was finally appointed Prime Minister of France late yesterday afternoon, two days after President Mitterrand had originally said he would make the appointment.

Lord Hailsham accused of 'illegal act' on defence fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The dispute between the Bar of England and Wales and the Government worsened yesterday with the start of High Court proceedings in which barristers accused Lord Hailsham of acting illegally in limiting their fees for legally-aided defence work to 5 per cent.

Reagan loses rebel aid vote

From Michael Binyon Washington

After ten hours of impassioned debate, the House of Representatives voted yesterday by 222 votes to 210 to reject President Reagan's \$100 million aid package to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Minister clears Guinness bid

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Guinness will be allowed to proceed with its £2.4 billion takeover bid for Distillers, the Johnnie Walker whisky and Gordon's gin drinks group, despite fears that it will damage competition in the British drinks market.

Shares up, mortgages down

The boom in share prices, given added zest by Tuesday's Budget, continued yesterday, while more building societies cut mortgage rates.

Scots drink law held up as model for England

Alcoholism and drink-driving convictions have fallen significantly in Scotland during the past decade since the introduction of more relaxed licensing laws, according to a report published yesterday.

Lloyd's may get EEC bonanza

From Richard Owen, Luxembourg

The European Court of Justice yesterday took a big step towards the liberalization of the European insurance market, from which Lloyd's and other British insurers stand to gain substantially.

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Pay pharmacists less for dispensing, more for advice, reports says

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

High street chemists should be paid less for dispensing medicines and more for providing advice and other services to patients and doctors, an inquiry into the future of pharmacy recommended yesterday.

Under the present system of payment "advice brings the chemist no return; the sale of medicine does", the report by an independent committee of inquiry set up by the Nuffield Foundation says. Chemists are "placed under continual pressure by advertisements to sell particular medicines, not because they would best meet the patient's needs but because they carry a higher margin of profit".

Failure to act on serious symptoms

Pharmacists are getting better at giving advice to the public, but one in four failed to tell patients to see a doctor immediately when told of symptoms that could have been signs of serious illness, according to a survey by the Consumers' Association.

The survey, submitted to the Nuffield inquiry, produced better results than a similar survey in 1975, said the Consumers' Association. But it showed that not all chemists were following the Pharmaceutical Society's guidance on questions that should be asked.

Watchdog defensive on delays

The Ombudsman, whose job it is to root out incompetence in government departments, was on the defensive yesterday about delays in the investigation of complaints referred by MPs.

Mr Anthony Barrowclough, QC, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, took the opportunity of his annual report to respond to criticism voiced last July by a select committee.

Blandford is sent for trial

Lord Blandford, aged 30, was committed for trial to Knightsbridge Crown Court on drugs charges yesterday.

BA is popular with both sexes

Wide differences in the preferences of male and female business travellers are highlighted in a MORI poll carried out by Thomas Cook, the travel agents.

Acquitted man is rearrested

A man was rearrested yesterday just after a Central Criminal Court jury had acquitted him of a double murder with a ceremonial sword in an east London restaurant.

Doctor named by MP declares innocence

The Essex doctor named by an MP last week as the rapist of a girl, aged eight, yesterday claimed that he was innocent and that he had been pilloried.

Bail for three policemen

Three London police officers were remanded on unconditional bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday, accused of assault and conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Bonanza time for the royal souvenirs

By Patricia Clough

The official mugs commemorating the engagement of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson were streaming off the production line yesterday as Britain's multi-million pound royal souvenir industry geared up for another bonanza.

The mugs, in black, white and gold, were designed and put into production by Staffordshire Potteries within 12 hours of receiving the commission at 11 am on Wednesday in a frantic, high-speed operation.

The mugs, priced 99p, should be in the shops on Monday. But the prize for the shrewdest operator, however, must go to Debrett's who have been secretly working since the end of last year on a glossy coffee-table, *Book of the Royal Engagement*, in a calculated gamble which, if it had failed, could have cost them more than £10,000.



The royal engagement mugs, priced at 99p, rolling off the production line at Staffordshire Potteries within 24 hours of the official announcement, for sale from Monday.

Rally of Guides was 'badly organized'

By Gavin Bell

A Girl Guides rally at Crystal Palace, London, at which 27 girls were taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia, was badly organized and some of its leaders displayed an apparent lack of common sense, an inquiry has concluded.

The report of the committee of inquiry, chaired by Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, and published yesterday, said that no provisions had been made for the adverse weather at the rally of 25,000 people last April, nobody was identified as being in overall control, and there was no central command structure or comprehensive communications system.

Dr June Paterson-Brown, the Girl Guides chief commissioner, told a press conference that the association had already implemented a further key recommendation, that weatherproof capoules be made part of the official uniform.

What to make of Nigel

Where, of course, you'll find a lot more than Budget talk. Auberon Waugh, for example, in an unprecedented display of good nature, praises Richard Ingrams, departing editor of *Private Eye*: "Of all my contemporaries, he is undoubtedly the one who has made the greatest mark on his times." John Mortimer continues his Diary. Anita Brookner reviews John Le Carré's *A Perfect Spy* and finds it more than perfect. Sam White reports from post-election France. And we come up with the best candidate for the new head of the British Council: the Prince of Wales. Put The Spectator in your budget this week.

When he was editor of The Spectator, he was the sharpest critic of the powerful. Now that he is Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson faces the critics himself. And who better for the task than the Spectator team: Ferdinand Mount, former head of Mrs Thatcher's policy unit, Jock Bruce-Gardyne, ex-Economic Secretary to the Treasury, and Christopher Fildes, our City columnist? Will tax cuts produce jobs? Will "popular capitalism" be popular enough to win the election? What are the Chancellor's true intentions? Read Mr Lawson's mind by reading The Spectator this Friday.

THE SPECTATOR

PARLIAMENT MARCH 20 1986 The Budget Petrol prices Licensing hours

PM wants cheaper petrol: companies harming themselves

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister declared during question time in the Commons that Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, was premature in demanding a windfall tax to take from oil companies...

Mrs Thatcher: I think it will take place. People are shrewd enough to go to the independents... Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C): This Budget will enable the British people to get what they want...



Churchill: Refer to Monopolies Commission

Too much scribbling in reply to MPs

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, complained in the Commons that far too many immigration officers were having to sit in offices scribbling replies to MPs on immigration cases...

Extensive and ambitious plans for job creation: economic outlook good

The present generation of working people faced the best economic outlook of their lifetime, with high growth, low inflation, falling oil prices and exchange rates which were stable at levels that enabled the country to be competitive...

Government had clearly rejected doing anything about the level of mass unemployment... The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson) had created the conditions for jobs...

Anti-flu vaccine may be useless

Lord Tringham, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, started peers at a session time in the House of Lords by saying that she had been informed that the anti-flu vaccine was quite useless...

Calls for relaxation of drinks laws

There were strong arguments for relaxing licensing laws in England and Wales, since liberalization of opening hours in Scotland had disposed of some of the fears over what would happen once such a thing was done...

Mr Hurd received about the effect of Scottish licensing laws upon drinking patterns north of the border... Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said during questions in the Commons...

MPs right to voice concern

It was reasonable that public concern over occasional leniency in sentencing by the courts should find expression in the House... Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, indicated during question time in the Commons...

Mr Hurd said he had not finished studying the report... Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C) said drinking laws in England and Wales were a restraint on trade and regarded as deeply patronizing by most people...

Next week's business

Thursday: Easter adjournment debates. The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Conclusion of Budget debate. Tuesday: Gas Bill, third reading. Motion for the Easter adjournment. Wednesday: Debate on immigration rules.

Justice

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Britain's workers 'bunch of thickies'

Britain's workforce is "a bunch of thickies" in terms of skills and qualifications, compared with competitor countries, according to Mr Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission...

Crisis may push debt to £1.1 bn

The world debt crisis, aggravated by the fall in the price of oil, is expected to push the debts of the Export Credits Guarantee Department to more than £1,100 million within 12 months...

Science report

Consumers who are conscious of their weight or health and who insist on buying lean meat, should not be surprised if it turns out to be dry and tough after cooking... Professor Hans von Faber and Dr Elisabeth Metzler, surprised by statistics which showed that between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of pork marketed in the Federal Republic was of poor quality...

Call up plan rejected

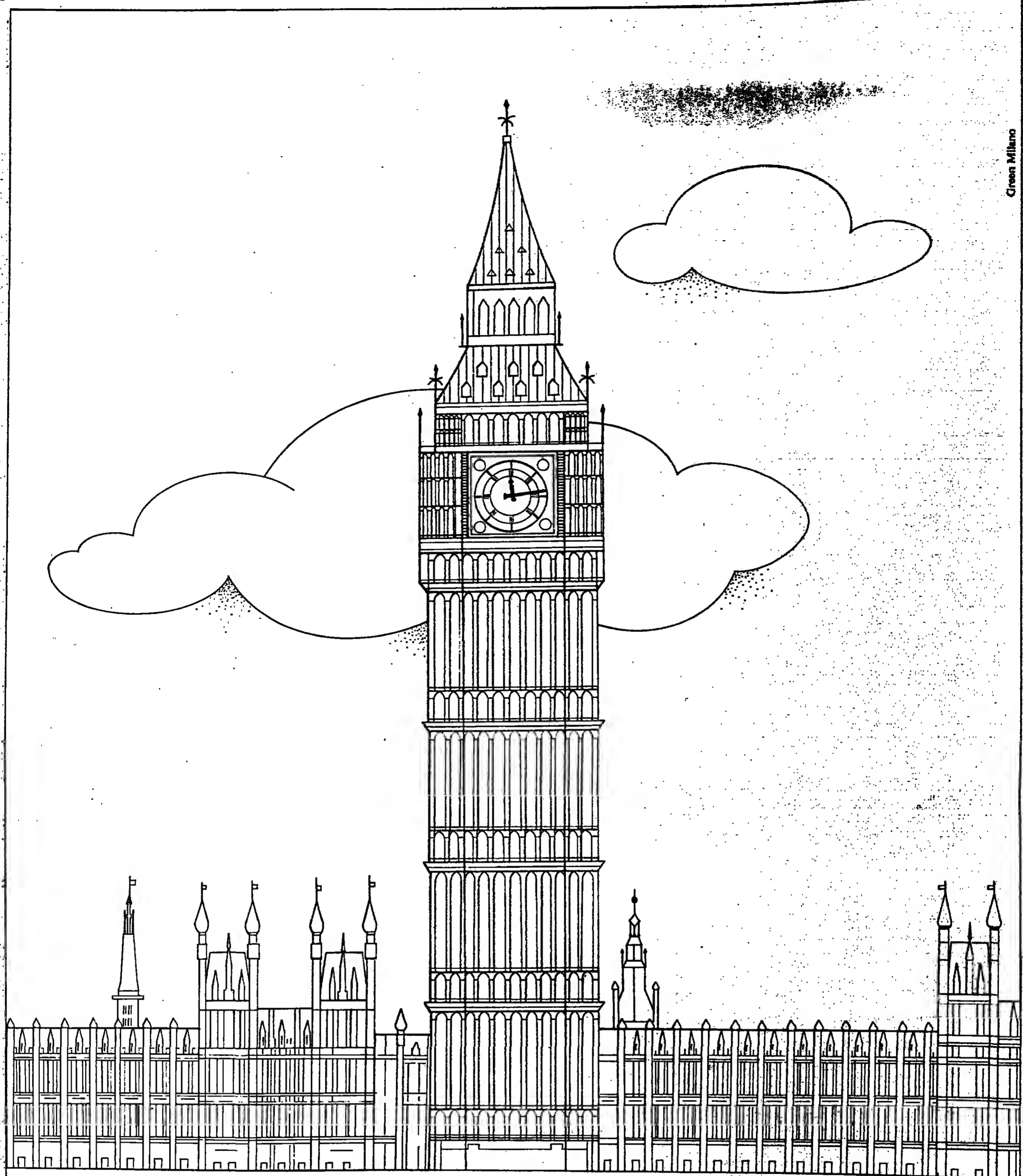
The Prime Minister rejected a suggestion by a Conservative MP that, in view of the alarming increase in violent crime, national service should be reintroduced... Mr John Wilkeson (Ruislip-Northwood, C): In view of the alarming increase in the incidence of violent crime, particularly by young people, could he find time to reconsider the potential importance of the introduction of national service...



Champion Steve Davis, with his wax partner at Madame Tussaud's yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trivernor)

Why lean meat turns tough

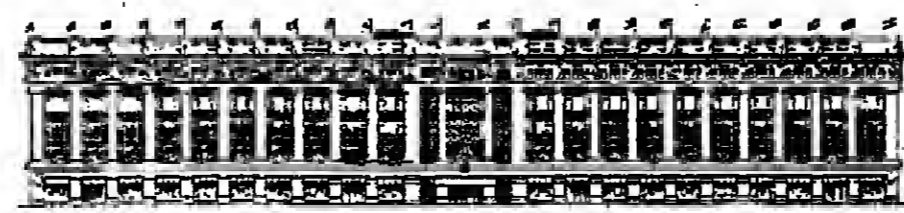
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July 1981

YUGOSLAVIA Part 1

On Sunday Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arrives in Yugoslavia for a two-day visit. In the first of two articles Richard Dowden reports from Belgrade on the country's politics six years after the death of President Tito.

The search for leadership

Belgrade's 'cart' is deep in the mire with nowhere to go

There is an old Serbian peasant saying that if your cart gets stuck in the mud you find a new team of horses to pull it out. Everyone in Yugoslavia today, including the Communist Government, admits that the country is stuck deep in the mud: but what gets many people is that the group trying to get it out is the same one that got it there in the first place.

At the same time they admit that there is no alternative to the League of Communists, as the party is called here. The league still claims particular legitimacy from its guerrilla struggle against Fascist occupation during the Second World War. "It was the only party which remained with the people during the War," one senior party official explained.

While there are now very few serving at senior government level, the party actually fought, the country's only other political forces are essentially nationalist factions.

"Nationalism is not just folklore in our country. There would be serious consequences from nationalist tensions. Fascists already play on the nationalist issues," said the party official, pointing out that 97 Yugoslav diplomats and civilians have been assassinated by anti-Communists in recent years.

Even though the party can claim, with justification, that without it there would be no Yugoslavia, many would point out that the party is tainted; it is crippled by the very disease from which it claims to protect the country.

Power in Yugoslavia lies with party officials at republic and provincial level. The six republics and two provinces which make up the federation are to disparate in wealth, culture, religion and attitude.



Mr Mikulic threatened to resign in January.

that their local parties simply reflect those differences.

One observer said: "Whenever a deputy speaks in Parliament I do not need to know his name or where he is from. I know immediately from the tone of his speech which area's interests he is protecting."

The most able people find they wield more power at provincial level, and stay there. In his acceptance speech in January, Mr Branko Mikulic, the incoming Prime Minister, threatened to resign if the best candidates for the Federal Government did not come forward.

The 1974 Constitution tried to cope with the national problems by building the system around consensus and by rotating senior posts round the constituent republics. "It is a bit like the EEC, but with twice the bureaucracy and none of the unanimity," said one observer.

As long as Tito was alive everyone knew where power lay, but no one is emerging with the personal authority to unite the nation. Many would

say that Yugoslavia's present problems arise from the 1974 Constitution, and call for radical changes.

The most serious manifestation is the disillusionment of the Serbs. Yugoslavia cannot survive without the assent of the Serbs, the largest single population group.

In view of the lack of individual leadership, however, there seems no alternative to the present system. But reaching consensus takes time and does not always achieve the best solution, particularly when tough economic decisions are needed. Decisions which are made are sometimes interpreted differently in different regions and the central Government lacks the authority to overrule them.

The lack of authority makes the system very open and the issues are discussed freely inside and outside the party. Ironically it is often the loyal party men who defend the system, while the "dissidents" call for stronger government.

Belgrade listens to what is said in Moscow but has never felt dominated by the Soviet Union since Tito broke away from Stalin in 1948. Non-aligned Yugoslavia votes against the Soviet Union over Afghanistan and against Vietnam over Cambodia at the United Nations, and the Russians complain about this at every opportunity.

Yugoslavia is the world's most free Communist state, but it retains an armoury of repressive measures against those who attack the system.

"Newspapers here cannot take an anti-Communist line, nor can there be any questioning of the basic facts, but there can be criticism of concrete phenomena; for example, over wrongly-placed investment," said the party official.

The level of tolerance varies from area to area. Bosnia and Croatia are the most repressive. Slovenia and Serbia are the most liberal. At present there are about 2,000 political prisoners, most of them held in connection with the troubles in Kosovo, where 1.5 million Albanians are steadily overwhelming the Serbs, who are leaving the area at the rate of 2,000 a month.

The Serbs believe that the Muslim Albanians are forcing their fellow Serbs out of the birthplace of the medieval Serbian renaissance. It is holy land to them, and feelings are beginning to run very high.

Tomorrow: Economic crisis.

Britain urges Cyprus dialogue

From Mario Modiano Athens

Britain is urging Greece and Turkey to open an "across-the-board" diplomatic dialogue in an effort to resolve the Cyprus crisis and to restore Nato unity in the region.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arrived here last night and is expected to put Britain's argument to Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, at a meeting in his country house at Kastris this morning.

The British view was explained to a fairly receptive Mr Tugut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, when he visited London in mid-February. Britain regards new proposals for Cyprus to be submitted shortly by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, as a last chance. Its view is shared by the US.

In Western capitals, however, there is a strong suspicion that Mr Papandreu fuelled the negative attitude of the Greek Cypriot leaders during earlier efforts for a settlement. This view was reinforced when Mr Papandreu expressed scepticism about Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's initiative, which, he said, would be a waste of time unless it met two conditions: first, that Turkish troops withdraw from Cyprus before the implementation of a federal solution; and secondly, that Turkey should have no unilateral intervention rights in the settlement.

The British position now is that these contentious proposals should be resolved by direct Greek-Turkish negotiation.

Britain believes that dialogue would also help to eliminate bilateral points of friction which have disrupted Nato defence planning in the region. "We want to see a strong and effective defence in Nato's south-eastern flank," a senior British diplomat said. "Until there is a more stable relationship between Greece and Turkey, this will not be possible."

A crucial problem is whether under existing treaties the Greek island of Lemnos, at the mouth of the Dardanelles, can be militarized. The Greeks maintain it can, and the Turks insist it cannot.

Greece is boycotting all Nato manoeuvres in the Aegean until Nato accepts its view by incorporating the island in the exercises. The alliance has urged the two sides to sort out the problem bilaterally.

Sir Geoffrey's visit here is the first bilateral official visit by a British Foreign Secretary since Sir Anthony Eden's in 1941.

He will find the one-time nonconformist Mr Papandreu much mellowed by his concern over Greece's economic and defence problems.

Turkish troops are present in northern Cyprus, not Greek troops, as stated yesterday.



Japan wins 'right' to vet textbooks

From David Watts Tokyo

The Tokyo High Court has confirmed that the Japanese Government has the right to decide the content of school textbooks. The decision will strengthen the revisionist mood in teaching Second World War history.

The ruling was on a 12-year-old appeal that revision of school textbooks by the Education Ministry was unconstitutional and an abuse of discretionary powers.

In 1974 the Tokyo district court upheld the ministry's right to intervene in the compilation of textbooks, but found it had gone too far by making Professor Saburo Ienaga rewrite parts of a book before resubmitting it. It ordered the state to pay him

100,000 yen (now about £388) in damages.

This week's ruling overturned those findings and turned down the claim for damages. It was welcomed immediately by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, who said he had never believed the ministry had acted unconstitutionally.

The ruling backs Mr Nakasone's campaign for Japan to rid itself of some of the influences of its American-imposed Constitution and become more nationalistic.

The case originally arose over the rejection of a history text submitted by Professor Ienaga, now retired from the Tokyo University of Education, for the academic year 1962. The book was accepted the following year after he had

revised some of his references to the War.

Since then he has been fighting a campaign on history teaching in Japanese schools. His campaign blew up into a diplomatic confrontation with South Korea and China in 1982, when it was reported that the ministry had ordered textbook writers to describe Japan's invasion of China as an "advance".

Most Japanese schools teach an anodyne version of the War which says little about events before Pearl Harbour. Professor Ienaga has always insisted that the Japanese should look at the War in the longer perspective and regard its beginning as 1931, when the Japanese Army moved into China.

Judge Kiyoshi Suzuki yesterday said that the Govern-

ment was empowered by the Constitution to implement an appropriate education policy and to intervene in what is taught in classrooms to an extent it deems necessary and reasonable. Screening textbooks was neither a violation of freedom of speech nor of education law.

Professor Ienaga, a frail figure who has two other cases in the courts, said after the hearing that his involvement in history teaching had taught him to take the long-term perspective.

"Through I regret the ruling, I don't feel it has nullified everything that I have been working for so far. What concerns me is that the court has virtually abandoned its role as the prime judicial force and the watchdog of the rule of law."

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Teachers are sacked after boy's suicide

Three Tokyo junior high school teachers have been discharged by the Board of Education after one of their students committed suicide. In the first case of its kind three other teachers were disciplined (David Watts writes).

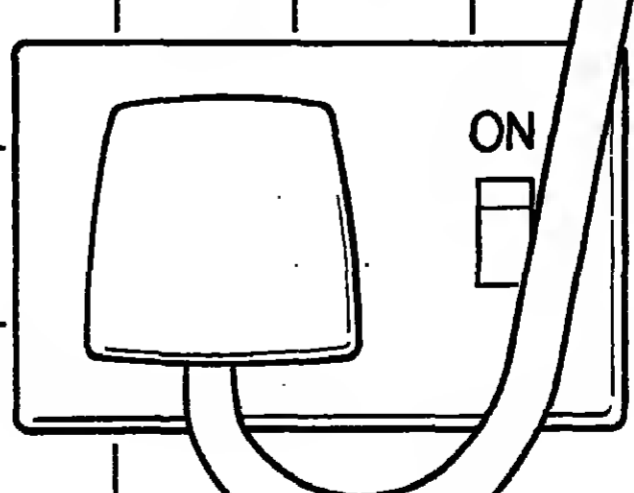
The teacher in charge of Hirofumi Shikagawa's second-year class actually drafted the eulogy for a mock funeral which bullies at the school staged for the boy, who hanged himself in November.

Two of the three other teachers who signed the eulogy had their pay cut and the third was reprimanded. They are also to have a year's special training.

A nationwide Ministry of Education survey of the bullying problem between April and October last year found that 153,066 cases of bullying had been reported at 39,415 schools.

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The rising tide of moderation

The Social Democratic Party is five years old next week; has it broken the mould of British politics? Alan Franks reports from a town where it has achieved its aim of a radical change in voting patterns

As new towns go, Stevenage is the nicest. It lodges in a once rural rump of Hertfordshire, 35 miles to the north of the capital whose overspill it was designed to absorb.

Thirty years after its construction it seems as dated as only newish things can be - a sprawl of housing estates and industrial sites radiating outwards from a core which was once a small country town of 7,000 residents. Today the population is more than seven times that number.

Stevenage is now high up the SDP's shipping list of parliamentary constituencies, together with such targets as Swindon, Cardiff North, Blyth Valley and Exeter, and in its shifting demography can be charted the wider story of the new party's national aspirations.

For this is an area which, no less than British politics, finds itself in a state of transition. The industries that came in the 1950s have thinned out - many of them are subsidiaries of large manufacturing companies - and unemployment now stands at 12.6 per cent, one third higher than the average for south-east England and nearly twice the overall rate for Hertfordshire.

But as the traditional employers have receded - Kodak, Bowater, Memmore Industrial - so the newer ones arrive: hi-tech businesses, distribution centres, computer firms. All the while British Aerospace acts as the bedrock of the local wage economy: 7,200 jobs turning out the Rapier and Seawolf at the guided weapons division, 3,000 at the dynamics division, and a further 8,000 over at the aircraft factory in Hatfield.

Like Barrow in Cumbria, with its similar reliance on the Trident programme at Vickers, Stevenage finds itself at the core of the two great national preoccupations of defence and employment. At the last general election it was Labour's unilateralism, as much as the presence of an SDP candidate, which helped to slash the Labour vote to 12,673 and bring the new party's candidate to within less than 2,000 of the Conservative MP, Tim Wood (20,787).

This makes Stevenage into the SDP's fourth most marginal seat with a Tory majority, and prompts the party's prospective parliamentary candidate, Ben Stoneham, to say of the next election: "If I don't win then, we may as well give up."

There have been other major forces in play to bring about a change in the character of the town. By 1985 the number of houses in private ownership had risen to 13,151 (47 per cent of total stock) from its 1981 figure of 9,660 (33 per cent). In other words, a new town commissioned under Atlee has been partly gentrified under Thatcher, with all the usual features like bow windows and



New town gang of four: Stevenage Social Democrats (from left to right) Edward Spriggs, executive member; Margaret Latham, vice-chairman of the area SDP; Peter Metcalfe, chairman of the area SDP; and prospective parliamentary candidate Ben Stoneham. (Photograph by John Timbers)



The original Limehouse gang of four: Bill Rodgers, Shirley Williams, Roy Jenkins and Dr David Owen

brass door knockers to broken an upward shift.

Meanwhile the daily migration southwards by computers has been climbing steadily, so that today the main line station has become in Kings Cross as Watford is to Euston.

Neither the town nor the outlying villages which make up the rest of the parliamentary constituency harbour serious gripes about traffic or roads. Thanks to the comparatively new infrastructure of the region, there is neither too much of the first nor too few of the second. As with many housing estates built subsequently across the northern belt of London's countryside, the main complaint is that the planners lacked precision when they left out the garages.

Because of its anxieties about the impact of falling rolls on secondary education, the condition of the first wave of ageing council homes and the day care provision for an increasingly elderly population, Stevenage, with its air of classlessness, comes as near to being a classic example of the SDP target seat as any in the country. It is above all a natural for the community politician.

If the party has transformed the politics of the constituency into a genuinely three-way proposition (given Labour's national resurgence), it must also own up to certain hereditary privileges, notably the so-called Shirley Factor. For Mrs Williams, now president of the party, was the Labour member for the old seat of Hertford and Stevenage from 1974 until defeated five years later by the Conservative Petrie Bowen Wells, with the narrowest of margins.

Many members of the Stevenage SDP are defectors from Labour who, like Mrs Williams, became disaffected with the rise of the hard left during the late 1970s and 1980s. There is thus a sense of having made the journey in good company.

Perhaps the most prized of these new centrists is Mr Philip Iretton, a redoubtable 82-year-old who can trace his family back 250 years in Stevenage, and who resigned from the Labour Party in 1979, one year after being presented with a certificate to honour his 60 years of membership. Having been Labour's first chairman of the county council as well as the only person to belong to the Stevenage Development Corporation for the full 33 years of its life from its inception in 1946, he represents for the local SDP a ready-made elder statesman.

"Eight years ago", he recalls, "I was warning Labour that there were grim prospects ahead, but they didn't seem to take any notice. At the end of 1979 I didn't renew my membership, and later responded in an advertisement for the SDP shortly before its formation."

In one respect, however, Stevenage is atypical of the national pattern: in 1981, when the party was launched two months after the Limehouse Declaration by the Gang of Four, it attracted an initial membership of 51,000, rising to 70,000 in early 1982, only to fall in the wake of the Falklands war and level off again to its present 53,000. Locally it has expanded from the 70 who attended the inaugural meeting in June 1981 at Stevenage leisure centre to a current high of 515, compared with Labour's 800 and the Conservative's 700.

Two other factors bear the unmistakable hallmarks of the image which the SDP is at pains to project to the country: first, the flood of newsletters through the doors of the town and its environs, full of community sentiments and the caring musings of the liberal

middle class; second, the style and background of the two pivotal figures in the party's push for hearts, minds, money and votes.

Mr Peter Metcalfe, the area party chairman, is marketing information manager at Bowater Containers in Ditchmore Lane. He is a former Labour activist, with years of experience as a party manager and election organizer. Like Iretton, his membership dates from Limehouse. He has the measured informality typical of SDP men, talks of Jenkins as "Woy", enjoys his food, and does an alpha-minus imitation of Tony Benn.

"We've chipped away at the Labour vote in the town and I doubt whether it will come back", he says. "I suppose it keeps what you might call the armpit vote, that is many of the old people and unemployed. The middle of the

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE SDP

The first decisive rallying call for the creation of the Social Democratic Party came in November 1979 when Mr Roy Jenkins, then retiring President of the European Commission, made a speech calling for a new radical centre in British politics.

On January 25, 1981, the "gang of four" - Roy Jenkins, Dr David Owen, Shirley Williams and Mr William Rodgers - all former Labour Cabinet Ministers, issued the "Limehouse Declaration" rejecting Labour policies and announcing plans for a Council for Social Democracy.

The SDP was launched on March 26, 1981, with Roy Jenkins as leader and the immediate support of 13 MPs from the Labour camp.

Three by-elections - the victory at Crosby by Shirley Williams, the first MP elected in the SDP cause,

and Roy Jenkins's earlier narrow defeat at Warrington and his success at Hildesheim, confirmed the party's political substance, before the Falklands War revived Tory fortunes.

The SDP went into the General Election of June 9, 1983, with 29 seats, but came out with only six, although the Alliance won a quarter of the national vote. Shirley Williams and William Rodgers were both out. Roy Jenkins immediately announced that he would stand down as leader, and David Owen was elected leader.

The SDP secured the first Alliance by-election success of the new parliament at Portsmouth South in June 1984. Last month the opinion polls showed the Alliance in second place with 33.4 per cent.

George Hill

of the SDP in this neck of the woods. "First, I think that we have shown what can be done with an effective organization at ground level, and a lot of that must be put down to Peter Metcalfe. We have now got to the position at which people realize that to opt for us is not to waste a vote on a party with a short life expectancy.

"Secondly, the class and age structure of the population is favourable. My experience in other towns and constituencies has been that you can usually divide the place into areas and say: 'This part will vote this way and that part will vote that way', and so on. Here, that is simply not the case."

More significant still must be the party's showing in the elections at borough and county levels over the past two years. For with

half of the 10 Alliance councillors now at the town hall as the opposition to Labour's 26-strong group, the SDP has made inroads into the traditional dominance of the ruling party. And since the Hertfordshire council elections last year they occupy four of the 14 Alliance seats: with Labour at 27 and the Conservatives at 36.

At the latter they even managed to poll the second highest number of votes cast, although there is no great evidence, yet of whining about the inequities of withholding proportional representation from the nation. For the time being, in Stevenage, at the SDP's tiny new offices in the High Street, PR stands for public relations, and the "little army" of volunteers beavers away with all the public ardour of the convert - or the private enthusiasm of the recent virgin.

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here



Uncle Oscar's day

The world's longest limousine line rolls up to the door of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion next week in downtown Los Angeles, delivering onto the red carpet the has-been, would-be and about-to-be winners of the 58th Academy Awards, Hollywood's most glittering prizes, otherwise known as the Oscars (reputedly named after somebody's uncle). The Times looks behind the scenes at the infighting, frontstabbing and back-biting as the film world's glitterati fight for the famous statuette

A roast for Easter
Traditional leg of lamb

Festival calendar
The best of British

Portfolio
£42,000 to be won

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ADDRESS _____

Playing safe with fortunes

If Hongkong's new Stock Exchange booms after it opens on April 2, the chances are it will all be put down to *fung shui* (wind and water), an ancient Chinese principle which holds that if buildings, furniture, roads and important works are placed in harmony with nature, and with each other, they will bring good fortune. If not, terrible things can happen.

The Stock Exchange will be housed in the base of Exchange Square, one of the newest, most expensive, most beautiful and technologically advanced skyscraper complexes in the world - designed to comply with 4,000 year-old superstitions. The developers, the Hongkong Land Company, know that you ignore *fung shui* at your peril.

So from the drawing board

through to the fitting-out of the 2850 million sq ft on the waterfront in prestigious central Hongkong they consulted professional *fung shui* experts, who enjoy the status and income of top surgeons.

Mirrors, for instance are often used to deflect bad spirits, since they are so ugly that they cannot bear to look at themselves.

The highly-respected *Far Eastern Economic Review* rearranged their offices on expert advice after one staff member drowned, two correspondents were arrested and others fell sick. All is now well.

The Hongkong Land Company were told that their Exchange Square plans, by Swiss architect Renzo Riva, had good *fung shui*. The 52-

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 905

ACROSS

- Maintenance (6)
- Shellfish soup (6)
- Eggs (3)
- Surface layer (6)
- Ribbon pasta (6)
- Satirical sketch (4)
- German housewife (8)
- Web insect (6)
- Sum (6)
- Rounded head for (8)
- Religious act (4)
- Repressed (4,2)
- Delicate (6)
- Insulate casing (3)
- Sullenly (6)
- Arctic dweller (6)

DOWN

- Practical joke (5)
- Sent forth (7)
- Game stealer (7)
- Major S Africa tribe (7)
- Mock (5)
- Discard knowledge (7)
- Unhappy (3)
- Dummy medication (7)
- Snake-like fish (3)
- Curl (7)
- Rig frame (7)
- Communion table (5)
- Suggest (5)
- Indian pole (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 904

ACROSS: 1 Confessionary 9 Ram 10 Asporious 11 Solve 13 Erratum 16 Clatter 19 Might 22 Affidavit 24 Sour 25 Machiavellian

DOWN: 1 Acorns 2 Enamel 3 Decadent 4 Stroke 5 Coop 6 Revolet 7 Cyprian 12 Oil 14 Remotely 15 Ugh 16 Clammy 17 Arrest 18 Revive 20 Gaskin 21 Truani 23 Dais

ELLE IS... JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING BLACK AND WHITE OUTFIT.

An exclusive 4-piece offer at a dream of a price. Plus Betty Jackson, living in chaos and loving it. Bryony Brind dancing through 60-minute cookery. And Yasmin, the model who walked away from the catwalk with Simon le Bon.

ELLE
OUT NOW £1

FRIDAY PAGE

Marriages of true minds

Nearly half the working population is female. But how many compete on equal terms with their partners? Alison Miller talks to three couples who mix competition with compatibility.

Increasingly, women are marrying men in the same profession. But how do they reconcile marriage with equality of career opportunity? A man has to feel very secure to allow his wife to be as successful, or more, than himself. Many arguments between couples are really an illustration of unconscious competition between each other. If they are competing outside the marriage for the benefit of the family, it may well mean a better relationship and a happier family.

Robert and Rhona Rapoport, who wrote a book about dual-career families, believe that the general ethos at the moment is against such couples. Robert Rapoport says: "Our view is that competition is an aspect of the couple relationship which, if not recognized and dealt with, could be troublesome. A lot of couples are in related professions because they meet each other in the course of their training, and they have a great deal in common. They also have a potential for conflict, but if it is recognized, it can be handled."

THE REGISTRARS

Malcolm Lennox, 36, and Jenny Ackroyd, 35, both senior registrars in general surgery - he specializing in neurology at the Westminster, she in vascular surgery at St Thomas's Hospital. Unlike others in this body competitive area of medicine, Lennox and Ackroyd are married to each other, have a four-year-old daughter and would like more children. They are an animated couple, each cheerfully interrupting the other, determined to be consultants and recognizing that although Jenny has the more paper qualifications - she was first woman master of surgery at Cambridge and the first woman registrar in general surgery at St Thomas's - Malcolm has managed to get ahead. Although they came to London as registrars at the same time, Jenny went full-time into the male enclave of St Thomas's and found herself among eight or nine equally well-qualified male surgeons pushing for promotion to registrar. Malcolm landed on his feet at the Westminster,



Clare Renton and Tim Scott: "Practically every one of our generation at the Bar has children"



Malcolm Lennox, Jenny Ackroyd: Mutual support

getting his senior registrar's job - the key to consultancy - two years earlier, because he was the "local boy". Jenny had to take a two-year break, during which time she did research into vein valves, wrote her thesis and had Sophie, before getting her senior registrar job at St Thomas's last June. She says: "If you ask me what is the single most important thing to a woman succeeding in her career, I would say it was her husband. I've seen other people come to grief because of the people they've married. I remember one woman being telephoned by her husband in the middle of an emergency operation; he wanted to know where the bread was. There were times when I was applying for senior registrarships that I thought I was being stubborn or stupid. Malcolm was always very good and told me to get on with it. I think if I had not had that kind of support it would have been very difficult to carry on. The days when successful women in mainline surgery can admit to the gentler side of their nature still seems far off. Jenny sees becoming a female



John Hardy, Anna Somers Cocks: No career clash

consultant, one of only six in general surgery in the country (there are over 900 men), as the ultimate success. "She has moved three times, which is almost unheard of," says Malcolm, "and the story goes that when she was last asked why she wanted a move she replied: 'I'm following my man. She is so good she can afford to be that honest'. For the rest it is a balance between white lies and bald truth. "Women must never say, for instance, that they are going to the hairdresser," says Jenny. "Even though it's all right for men to go to the barber, you have to be 'going to get the car fixed', or 'to see your accountant'. "But it's worth it - there is no doubt that one gets a tremendous kick out of a successful kidney transplant, for example". Adds Malcolm: "General surgery is like gambling: it's all highs and lows. Sometimes we might be as high as a kite from a successful operation, but then there are times when we have had a nasty case with somebody dying. Luckily we don't tend to both have them at the same time."

THE KEEPERS

John Hardy, 43, and Anna Somers Cocks, 35, are assistant keepers at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the parents of two small children. "When we met, in the canteen, I was technically senior to John," says Anna. "He was a research assistant and I had very freely been appointed an assistant keeper straight after doing my masters in history of art at the Courtauld Institute. "John was made assistant keeper about 18 months later and we have remained equals ever since. We are not really in competition because the museum is like an empire made up of separate kingdoms. As our subjects are different I couldn't take over from each other but I suppose one could aim to be more famous than the other, to enjoy a greater international reputation, to publish more books. "I took it absolutely for granted that having children wasn't going to make the slightest difference to me pursuing my career. Having the children was not the difficult part. When they were little it seemed quite all right to leave

Sentencing the prison visitor

FIRST PERSON

I have a son who committed an error, a serious one, and because of that, I've been able to see a part of the world that not all of us do, or would want to, for that manner. He was sent to prison. After the trial was over and he was found guilty, he went to Wandsworth until it was decided where he'd be best placed. Because of an illness he was there longer than expected.

Visiting during those six months made me feel like a criminal too - and I've only ever had one speeding offence, my daughter-in-law is crime-free and the baby's 10 months old. We'd queue, the three of us, on the outside steps: she clutching a visiting order, nappies and bottles, me the umbrellas, blankets, and both of us the baby in turns. Couldn't take the pram in. Two o'clock was visiting time and it was impossible to reduce the wait, usually half an hour on those damned steps. If we came at 2, then we'd miss some of the precious two-hour visit, only once a fortnight. There was always a queue and we were never first at the top.

Winds sweep up steps like they sweep nowhere else. Rain falls harder there, too. Officials marched in and out, large, blatantly innocent and in charge, sometimes with a dog. Up and down, with not a smile, nor a glance of encouragement. Either this, I suppose, or their souls would wither at the desperate look in some of the eyes that have no hope. Funny how guilty they made us feel. "Sorry", I'd say, nearly knocked off my feet by a large black dispatch case, probably containing my son's appeal, turned down.

Inside, we were searched thoroughly. Nappies and handbags opened. On my way to the East coast of Scotland once, for a holiday, I had £100 in cash. "What's this for?" he asked. Did he think I was financing the Great Escape? It was a crowded room, airless, and we couldn't open any windows, obviously. The steps began to look attractive.

Our name was called eventually, the huge doors opened, but daughter-in-law had gone to change the baby. I rushed to the inch gap. "Won't be long, sorry, just coming." Creep, creep. "Anything wrong Ma?" My son's got good manners, ushering us in, as if we were coming for tea, his blue and white striped shirt, grubby collared, blue cotton trousers hanging on his thin behind. We'd sit together at the table, filthy, coffee-stained. We'd scrub it with baby wipes. I walked round, pacifying the child to stop the tears caused by this terrible room, while they held hands desperately. There's little light in that visitors' room, dust covers outside windows, all barred. Warders stand everywhere, staring, but not seeing. People smoke cigarettes with an urgency that suggests they may never have another, drowning in walled, blank indifference. So when I heard he'd been sent to Coldingley, Surrey, and could see a cow from the window of his cell, I wasn't very hopeful. I was wrong not to be. I still have to cover the baby's eyes when the heavy doors clang open and shut in case she remembers them later. But we can wheel in the pram, are not searched so demeaningly, and can smile at the warders, because they smile back. Rehabilitation shines out from the windows, cleaner tables, the eyes of the voluntary helpers who bring round tea, coffee and biscuits, even a mug of hot water to heat the pureed veg. There's a creche too, just outside the door, where the baby can totter and run back, hands full of toys for dad. I don't pretend it's like a Sunday afternoon at home, but I don't feel guilty any more. It's more like a boarding school, I suppose. He's lost his desperate look and his eyes are clear with hope. He doesn't resent his sentence, but doesn't think we should have one too. Why are some prisons so bad (I had a visit to Wormwood Scrubs once) and some so good? Victorian buildings cast shadows, but they don't dictate policy. A covered way at Wandsworth would be a good start, if anyone feels like changing the system. Or is degradation part of the punishment? It didn't do me much good.

Hildegard Ellen

How to become a stag in bed.

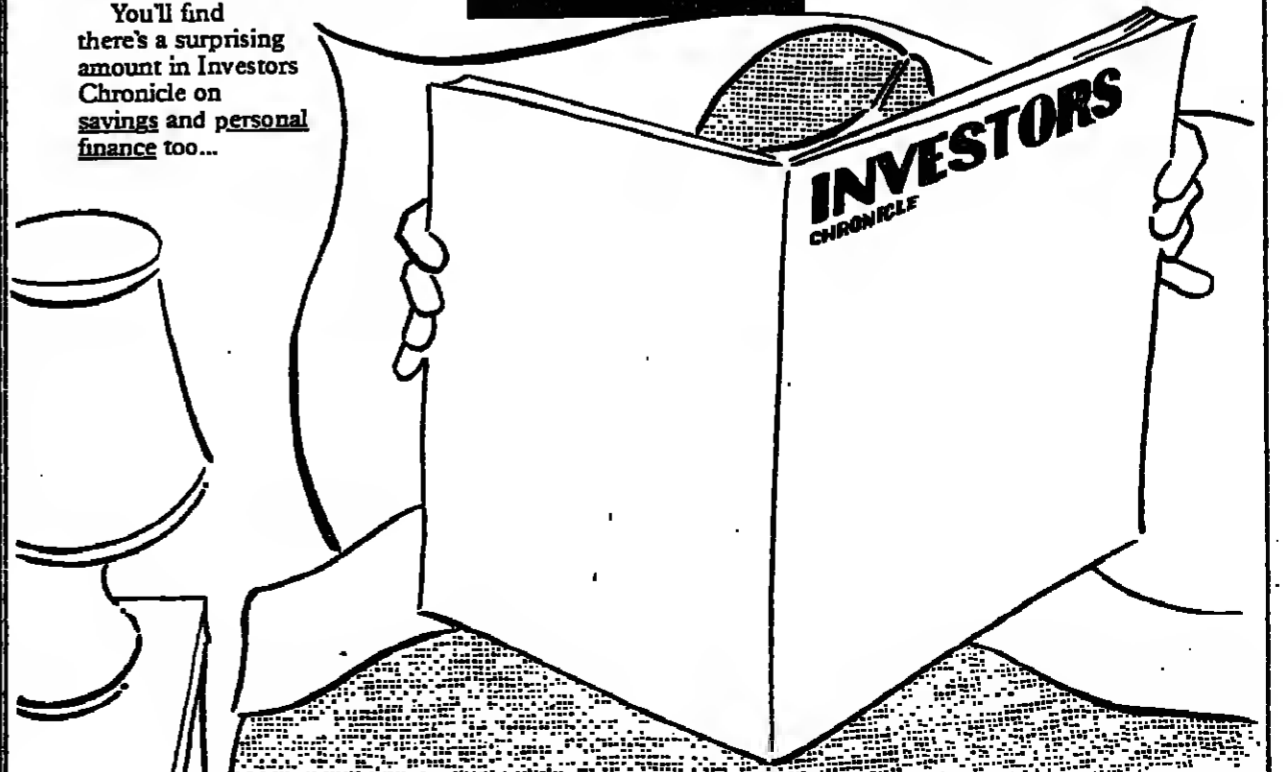
Next time there's a big new share issue, you could be among the "winners": one of the "stags" - the people who buy and sell fast, and make a profit! You don't have to be an expert; you can do it with just a little bedtime reading. Playing the stockmarket isn't just for city gents any more. It's for everyone. It's easy, it's fun - and it can be very rewarding indeed.

All you need, to get it right, is someone to show you what to do. What to buy - what to sell - and when. One weekly magazine has been advising people about their money for longer than most. Investors Chronicle. Not just stocks and shares - though thousands of established investors look to us for advice on these every week. You'll find there's a surprising amount in Investors Chronicle on savings and personal finance too...

How to build up your savings faster. How to get a bigger income. Pay less tax. How to pick the best Unit Trust. How to borrow money on your life insurance. What kind of mortgage to go for. And if you are looking to learn about the stockmarket, there's plenty here too. Should you go for British Gas when it comes along? What about British Airways? TSB? And the others...

There's even a weekly "Beginners Guide" to explain investment in detail. Whether you're a novice or an experienced old hand you'll soon pick up a lot of valuable tips. And all from the comfort of your own bedroom! Investors Chronicle is at your newsagent this Friday. See how it feels to make a bit of money. It's easy.

INVESTORS CHRONICLE Money made easy.



A cancer check for men

The virtuous Victorian was not supposed to think too much about his genitalia; fortunately 90 years ago this prudery wasn't as dangerous as it would be today. Malignant disease of the testis has increased five fold since the turn of the century and nobody knows why. Cancer of the testis is now curable in 90 per cent of cases and late diagnosis is the most common cause of failure. Genito-urinary surgeons now persuade young men to examine their testes as carefully as general surgeons have taught women to examine their breasts. The good news is that although this growth is now the most frequently found cancer in men between the ages of 15 and 45, the future for affected patients has been revolutionized in the last 20 years. Dr R.T.D. Oliver, of The London Hospital, in a review published in the British Medical Journal, credits improved surgery with the fall in the death rate in the 1960s and the introduction of modern cytotoxic chemotherapy in 1975

MEDICAL BRIEFING

for the trend continuing in the past decade. Tight underwear and jeans have been blamed as a cause because they keep the organs at an unnaturally high temperature, but they became fashionable only in the 1960s. Some doctors suspect that it may be a late effect of mumps, but the favoured theory, for which there is increasing evidence from mice experiments, is that the oestrogen levels provided by the maternal environment before delivery may be a crucial factor. It is known that overweight mothers, who have higher oestrogen levels, are more likely to give birth to sons who will later develop malignant disease in the testes. A sexy male leg The number of letters received after the item in Medical Briefing on the development of Regaine as a topical treatment for baldness illustrates the extreme sensitivity of people who have lost their hair early. Dr Alan Shrank, a consultant dermatologist from Shrewsbury, writing in the British Medical Journal, has now given men something else to worry about. He has questioned the usually accepted belief that the bare patches found on the outer lower third of male legs are due to the hair being rubbed off by rough clothing or tight socks; nor does he think that it is due to a poor blood supply. A narrowing arterial tree accounts for the loss of hair on the back of the foot and the tufts on the toes, but Dr Shrank maintains that the shiny bald lower leg is as much a sexual characteristic as a bald head and a hairy chest. Many readers asked if they could be included in the trials of Regaine; these trials are now complete and no more are envisaged. The proprietary remedies mentioned in the column, the efficacy of which have not been tested by controlled trials, are New Generation and Panitron One.

rear seat by straps fixed to suitable anchor points. Almost 140 women were questioned as to how their baby travelled in the car. Their answers together with other experiments involving the monitoring of supermarket car parks, showed that only 40 per cent of babies in Southampton were adequately restrained, which contrasted with 70 per cent in Australia, 66 per cent in New Zealand and 60 per cent in the United States.

Double sting

If the traditional portrayal of the bee keeper as an old countryman suffering from rheumatism is justified he will have to choose his treatment with care. For if he takes non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for his aches and pains a bee sting may give rise to a possibly fatal allergic reaction. The British Medical Journal recently carried reports of two bee keepers who had over the years grown immune to the venom from multiple stings, but who after taking anti-rheumatic drugs found that not only had their immunity gone, but they were hypersensitive and laid low by a single bee sting. The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents include such well known drugs as Ponstan, Indocid, Naprosyn and Brufen. As a group they have revolutionized the treatment of arthritis in its many forms so that countless thousands of people owe their mobility to them. The Committee on the Safety of Medicines, however, has recently drawn the attention of all doctors to the danger of acute gastric or duodenal ulceration which can occur.

Baby safety

Compared with other parents in the developed world, British mothers are careless about their baby's safety in the car, a survey says. Earlier research had shown that many cars are fitted with inadequate restraints for toddlers sitting in the back of the vehicle. Now another study, from Southampton Medical School, reveals that babies fare no better. The official recommendation in Britain is that a child under six months should be laid in a carrycot held in the

Insist on... HIGH & DRY Really Dry Gin

Dr Thomas Stuttford

COMMODITIES

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - with 149,360,000 shares on Wednesday as blue chips fell under pressure from organized selling activities, traders said. The Dow Jones industrial average, which touched 1,797 earlier in the day, closed at 1,787.95, down 1.52. There were 762 issues advanced, 853 declining and 444 unchanged. Volume totalled 151,419,000 shares compared with 149,360,000 shares on Tuesday. The New York Stock Exchange composite index was 135.57, down 0.13. The American Stock Exchange closed lower in moderate trading. The market value index fell 1.49 to 266.20. The price of an average share decreased eight cents.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes companies like Amgen, Amgen, Amgen, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for currency types and exchange rates. Includes Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, Dollar Spot Rates, and Other Sterling Rates.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns for money market rates and gold prices. Includes Euro Money Deposits, Gold, and EGD.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for financial futures contracts and their prices. Includes Three Month Sterling, Six Month Sterling, etc.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table with columns for Canadian commodity prices. Includes Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, etc.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for various commodities and their prices. Includes Sugar, Cocoa, Coffee, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns for investment trusts and their performance. Includes various trust names and their assets.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table with multiple columns listing various financial services, companies, and their details. Includes sections for UK and Overseas, and various financial products.

TEMPUS

Tough decisions ahead for Britoil chiefs

Last summer, while the Government was selling the second tranche of Britoil shares, the company said, in connection with its profits forecast in the prospectus for the six months to December 1985, that each £1 change in the oil price would mean a difference of £5 million in net income for the half year. This would be equivalent to approximately £10 million in a full year.

and some tough decisions will have to be made. One of these decisions will be about next year's dividend. Keeping to its intention made at the time it was sold, Britoil is recommending a 9p final, giving a total dividend for 1985 of 13p. On forecast net income of under £100 million or 20p per share, the cover is 1.5 times.

Turner & Newall

Inevitably, it is the £13 million turnaround in asbestos claims rather than Turner & Newall's trading performance which grabs the headlines and more than explains the jump in pretax profits from £27.5 million to £39.6 million.

legacy of harder times, £64 million of British tax losses remains to boost the improved UK results expected for this year. The shares look well supported.

Legal & General

Legal & General surprised the market with disappointing 1985 results. The shares lost 27p to 757p but recovered to close unchanged at 784p. Pretax profits fell 34.5 per cent to £31.5 million, although the effect on the bottom line was reduced to a 15.7 per cent fall after tax and extraordinary credits worth £6.2 million.

Schroder's profits rise 17%

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

J Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank, yesterday revealed an increase in after tax profits of 17.6 per cent for last year. The group's corporate finance and investment management activities produced record results.

Prudential purchase

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest life company, has bought Pearsons, the Hampshire residential and commercial estate agent, for an undisclosed sum.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Budget euphoria sends equities to new peaks

The stock market surged again yesterday as investors continued to recognize the profit potential for companies after the Budget, lower interest rates and the bright outlook for inflation. After pausing for breath mid-session, share prices soared to close at a record 1415.1, up 25.6, on the FT 30-share index. The FT-SE gained 30.3 at 1690.1.

Some dealers were forecasting another cut in base rates before Easter as sterling held firm against other leading currencies. Government securities climbed another two points in early trading before trimming the gains by around half a point during the afternoon.

All equity sectors shared in the buoyancy but banks, stores, leisure and buildings were well to the fore. Company trading statements brought additional cheer and the only gloomy faces were those of stock jobbers who are being squeezed as stock becomes increasingly short in supply.

In merchant banks, Schroders jumped 90p to 1578 pence on the results and scrip proposal. Disappointing profits knocked 11p from Bancards at 120p and 4p from CCF at 114p.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES and RIGHTS ISSUES, listing various stocks and their prices.

THE LEGAL & GENERAL OUTLOOK

A brighter outlook after an unsettled year.

The past year has presented insurance companies with their fair share of problems, and we are no exception. But our confidence in the underlying financial strength and quality of our business is well reflected in this year's final dividend and bonus share issue, though we do have to report a disappointing level of shareholders' profit.

of our US life operations have been reflected in excellent new business figures. However, there have been heavy reinsurance losses and the strengthening of Sterling has had an adverse effect on the life results.

UK Operations

While the volume of new business growth in life insurance did not compare with the outstandingly successful years of '83 and '84, we have maintained our existing share in the conventional house purchase market. Insured group pensions achieved very satisfactory levels of new business growth.

Investment Management

The total amount of funds under our management has continued to grow, and now stands at £11 billion. The expansion of our unit trust activities last September signalled the introduction of a number of new investment products, and this confirms our role as a major fund manager as well as a conventional insurer.

The general insurance underwriting results, however, were poor. But premium income developed well ahead of our forecasts, and at potentially profitable levels.

The Future

Having weathered a difficult year, Legal & General is firmly positioned to consolidate its place in the insurance and investment markets.

International Operations

All our international operating companies showed very good new business growth. In particular, our strenuous efforts to increase the scale

To find out more, reserve your own copy of our forthcoming annual report either by sending us the coupon below or ringing Teledata on 01-200 0200 right now. You'll find our long-term outlook bright.

Table comparing 1985 and 1984 performance across various categories like Life & pensions profits, USA life profits, Fund management profits, etc.

Copies of the Report & Accounts for 1985 will be sent to shareholders on 17th April 1986 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting on 14th May 1986. A final dividend for 1985 of 10p per share is proposed.

Please send me a copy of the forthcoming 1985 Legal & General Annual Report. Send to: Group Secretary, Legal & General Group Plc, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP

Form with fields for Name, Address, and Postcode, and the Legal & General logo.

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on 21st March, 1986, Hill Samuel's Base Rate, for lending will be decreased from 12.5% to 11.5% per annum.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited 100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ. Telephone: 01-628 8011.

Superdrug

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Table showing preliminary results for 52 weeks to 1st March 1986, comparing 1986 and 1985 figures for Turnover, Trading Profit, etc.

- Turnover increased by 27.25%
Trading Profit increased by 25.63%
Proposed final dividend of 3.0p (interim 2.0p)
Total for year 5.0p (1985 - 4.2p)
Own label products 30% of turnover
43 new branches opened including 3 in Scotland
254 stores now trading

A most exciting and rewarding year, both in terms of profitability and future opportunities. Our new 200,000 sq. ft. Northern Regional Distribution Centre opened on time, and began servicing 50 stores in the North of the country in September. The development cost a total of £7m and will service eventually 350 stores, whilst our Croydon depot can service 290. Despite the substantial start up costs of the additional warehouse we nevertheless achieved a trading profit increase of 25.63%. This was only made possible by a further tightening of all systems, and by the superb efforts put in by all our staff. The foundations are now laid for us to increase our expansion programme right across the country, with a view to doubling our size within the next 4/5 years.

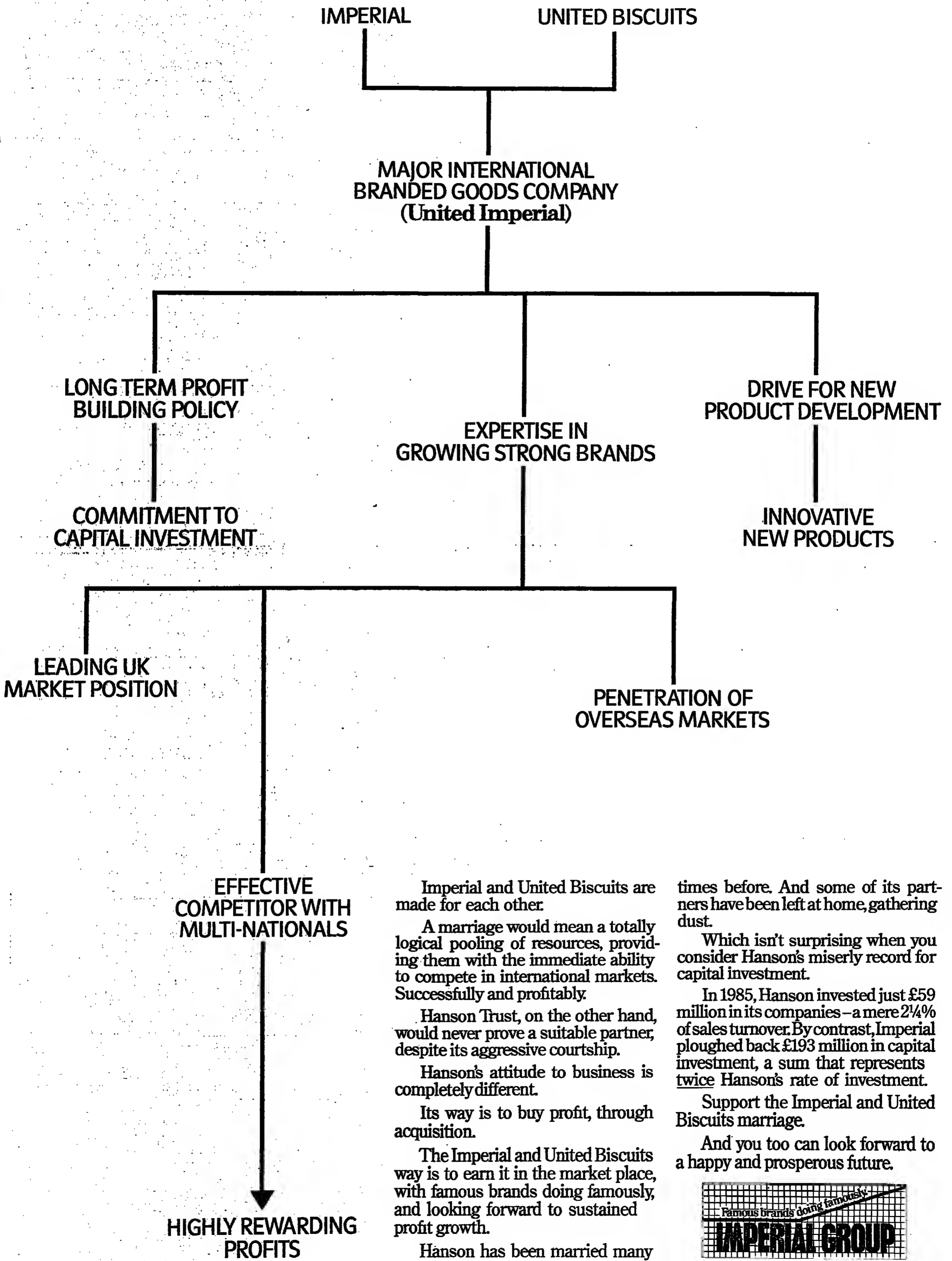
COMPANY NEWS

ARMSTRONG EQUIPMENT: The directors say they have considerable confidence in the future, and have raised the interim dividend to 0.75p (0.3). Figures in £000 for half year ended December 31. Pretax profit 3,510 (1,512). Earnings per share 5.86p (2.44).

Handwritten note: 100 is 100

The marriage of Imperial and United Biscuits.

(And how to be an heir to the fortune)



Imperial and United Biscuits are made for each other.

A marriage would mean a totally logical pooling of resources, providing them with the immediate ability to compete in international markets. Successfully and profitably.

Hanson Trust, on the other hand, would never prove a suitable partner, despite its aggressive courtship.

Hanson's attitude to business is completely different.

Its way is to buy profit, through acquisition.

The Imperial and United Biscuits way is to earn it in the market place, with famous brands doing famously, and looking forward to sustained profit growth.

Hanson has been married many

times before. And some of its partners have been left at home, gathering dust.

Which isn't surprising when you consider Hanson's miserly record for capital investment.

In 1985, Hanson invested just £59 million in its companies—a mere 2¼% of sales turnover. By contrast, Imperial ploughed back £193 million in capital investment, a sum that represents twice Hanson's rate of investment.

Support the Imperial and United Biscuits marriage.

And you too can look forward to a happy and prosperous future.



The sources for the information contained in this advertisement are set out or referred to in the letter from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 13th February 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly.

April 1986

FOCUS

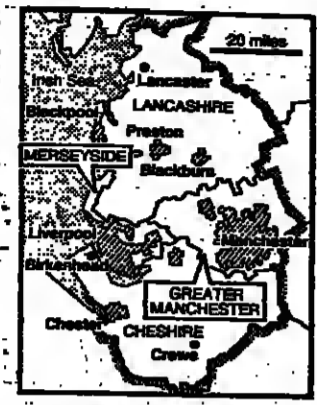
A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE NORTH WEST/1

March 21, 1986 By Peter Davenport

A land being born again

Venue for the 21st century

Britain's North West region is being transformed by a series of imaginative ventures which include the Greater Manchester Exhibition and Events Centre to be opened today by the Queen.



The fight to rid the North West of its ugly legacy of the Industrial Revolution will have twin benefits. It will not only improve the daily lot of the people who live and work in its towns and cities, it will also make the environment of the region much more attractive to outside investors who are needed to provide the new jobs so badly needed.

It will, inevitably, be a long-term programme but there are already multi-million-pound schemes forging ahead in Liverpool, Manchester and Salford and many smaller towns. The Government, through the Department of the Environment, is pumping more than £100 million a year into the area through its basket of urban aid programmes and derelict land grants.



museums and luxury apartments. A further 200 acres of disused dockland is also to be redeveloped into a series of major tourist attractions. The city council has a rolling urban regeneration strategy for the demolition of old, decaying tenements and a rebuilding of new homes no more than two storeys high. A range of sports facilities for the inner city is being developed and there is a programme of improving parkland in the area and schemes for enhancing the general environment.

Once derelict land is also being reclaimed imaginatively. A 64-acre former railway marshalling yard has been transformed, with 62,000 trees and 100,000 shrubs, into the Wavertree Technology Park with the potential for 2,000 hi-tech jobs. On the site of the former Racquets Club, a gentlemen's club that was destroyed in the Forth plots of 1981, a scheme by the Rural Preser-



Back from obscurity: Manchester's central station finds an exciting new role in the North West's transformation as the G-MEX exhibition centre with Frank Winter at the helm.

vation Association has brought a touch of the countryside to an urban area in a low cost programme to make the site more attractive while it is held in a land bank for later development. There are many other examples of a new use for once derelict land. A recent study into the problem of wasteland by the University of Liverpool's Environmental Advisory Unit warned: "If

land is left degraded, with only the tattered remnants of its former youth to proclaim its past, we are guilty of two major transgressions. "First, that a valuable resource is being wasted and second, that our environment and that of our children is being eroded."

When the Queen visits the region today she will see two prime examples of the regeneration of former derelict sites. The new G-MEX exhibition centre in Manchester has been created from the old Central Station and there has been a £3.5 million renovation of the original Wigan Pier site that has turned a disused, derelict eyesore into a smart complex of museums, exhibition centre and restaurants. The city of Salford suffers badly from urban decay but there are schemes in hand that will improve the area greatly.

Former rundown council flats sold to Barratts, the builders, have been transformed into desirable, private homes. Salford's former docks are being transformed in a £175 million project that will see high-grade private housing, a hi-tech industrial site and a 165-bed hotel. A big improvement to the environment of the whole region will be the outcome of a 25-year, £4 billion programme to clean up the entire Mersey Basin. The initial work has attracted a £67 million grant from the European Development Fund to be spent in the first three years of work.

In Manchester, where the new exhibition centre and the renovation of the Midland Hotel together with development of the Castlefield complex of museums and tourist attractions have revitalized the city centre, there are also plans to turn disused office blocks, and even a former fire station, into hotels.

When the Central Station was opened in Manchester at the end of the last century, it was to bring the goods and the people of the Industrial Revolution into the heart of a great city.

Today when the Queen officially opens the renovated train hall as the Greater Manchester Exhibition and Event Centre, its developers hope it will signal a period of 21st-century prosperity. The new complex, with its unique city-centre site and blend of highly adaptable internal facilities, will make Manchester into an important rival to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham and London.

Interest was keen long before the centre was completed. Frank Winter, the general manager of G-MEX, the management company running the centre, says: "We are highly satisfied with the way things are going. There is a tremendous gap for such a centre in the north and because of our unique location right in the heart of the city, we may take business away from the NEC."

"We have 28 exhibitions booked between now and November and will achieve our predicted third-year results in the first year." Its first exhibition earlier this month was on the theme of industrial enterprise in the North West with 150 exhibiting companies.

Because of its large internal space, unblemished by a single pillar and with a roof arching 85 feet above the floor in a single span, it is ideal for athletics meetings, tennis tournaments, equestrian events, classical and rock music concerts.

Manchester's international airport is a 25-minute drive away, there is an excellent network of motorways and regular inter-city train services into Victoria and Piccadilly stations. There are a wide range of hotels, night clubs, theatres and restaurants, all within a few minutes' walk of the centre.

The creation of the exhibition complex is expected to inject £14 million of extra

business. This will also involve an extra 134,000 bed-nights for the nearby hotels.

The transformation of the old Central Station from a derelict dinosaur of a bygone age to an ultra-modern exhibition venue is just one phase of an ambitious scheme to re-occupy 26 acres of inner-city wasteland.

When completed it will see the major refurbishment of the old Midland Hotel into a five-star Holiday Inn. The rebirth of the station has cost £20 million and refurbishment of the Midland Hotel will cost a further £14.6 million. The entire 26-acre scheme is due for completion by the end of the next decade.



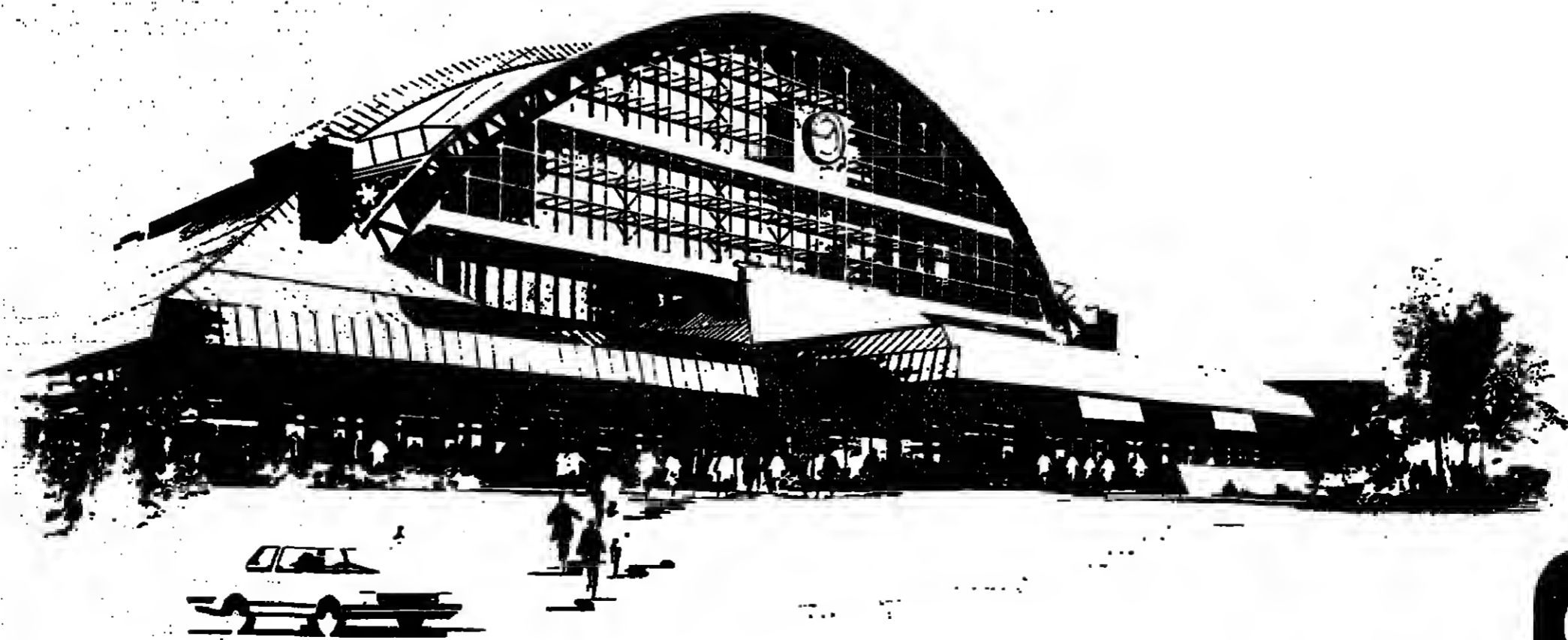
John Bojle: a modern centre sympathetic to history

To facilitate the development, the Greater Manchester Council formed Central Station Properties Ltd, a company jointly owned on an equal basis with Commercial Union Assurance.

The renovation of Central Station was a daunting task. It opened in July 1980 to provide a link with the existing road network and extensive canal system around Manchester. It was expanded a decade later with the opening of the Great Northern Warehouse, now a listed building, to be redeveloped as part of the scheme.

But economic and transport changes led to a steady decline Continued on page 24

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FOCUS

THE NORTH WEST/3

The shake-up coming after the abolition

The political map of the North West runs the entire spectrum from the solid Tory seats of rural Cheshire to the Militant stronghold of Liverpool. Four million of the region's population are in for a political change at the end of this month when the metropolitan counties of Greater Manchester and Merseyside are abolished.

They are to disappear in the local government shake-up that will also end the Greater London Council and four other metropolitan authorities.

Many of the responsibilities of the county authorities will be given back to the district councils and to a series of boards. Residuary bodies in Manchester and Liverpool will oversee the winding-up of the councils, dispose of surplus property and handle compensation payments for staff left without jobs to go to.

The reorganization has been designed to remove a tier of bureaucracy and to return more power to people in their own locality. But critics say that it will merely lead to

a slowing-down in services and an increase in rates as well as bureaucratic chaos.

The Greater Manchester council, which covers an area of 497 square miles and a population of 2.5 million, has responsibilities for highways, buses, planning, refuse, recreation, arts, consumer services, the police and fire service.

In the aftermath of abolition, there will be joint boards consisting of representatives from each of the 19 district councils in the area to run refuse collections, the police, fire services and highways with the funding being shared among the authorities.

The GMC employs 16,600 and with only weeks before the abolition deadline, all but 540 have found other jobs to go to, many joining the district councils.

Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of the county council, is critical of the new arrangements. He believes they will prove so unsuccessful that another reorganization, the third

since 1974, would be required within a few years.

He argues that not only will services to the public slow down as 10 authorities try to agree on a common approach but that the ratepayers will find themselves paying out more money to receive less.

The GMC is the largest metropolitan county outside London and it has been calculated, he said, that the new arrangements will cost an extra £15 million a year.

Mr Clarke says that the abolition and the combined effects of new transport regulations will push up bus fares and lead to 2,000 job losses in the area. But the main blow will be the ending of a regional voice on a large scale, long term economic issues, which, he says, are vital to efforts to revitalize many of the industrially depressed areas within its boundaries.

Mr Clarke said: "Abolition has been done for political reasons - there is no doubt about that. I am a



Bernard Clarke: A critic politician but I see the regions doing a very important, strategic, economic job and nobody is stepping in to pick up those pieces."

Merseyside County Council, which stretches from Southport in

the north to Wirral in the south, encompasses five district authorities, three Labour-controlled, two Conservative.

The leader of the council, Labour's Kevan Coombes, is blunt about the problems of the immediate future. He said: "A lot of opportunities for much-needed progress in economic development will be missed especially those on the large scale."

"You will have to get agreement on issues between five local authorities, some of whom can't even talk to each other, with one side trying to put the other side in jail (a reference to the Labour councillors of Liverpool and their court case appealing against orders of surcharge and bankruptcy by the District Auditor)."

For the four million people directly affected by the reorganization, the coming months will provide the answer to whether they will be better or worse off for the changes.

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Tourists by the million

From the bright and frequently breezy delights of Blackpool to the wide open spaces of the Peak District, from stately homes to the Maritime Museum in Liverpool, the North West boasts a varied agenda for tourists.

Many of its attractions have been imaginatively recreated from the once-sorry relics of its industrial past - for example, the impressive Albert Dock waterfront development in Liverpool and the Wigan Pier complex.

The region's two leading cities, Manchester and Liverpool, have an abundance of theatres, orchestras, museums, art galleries and restaurants. It is also home to successful football clubs and has fine sporting facilities.

'Sole growth industry in some parts'

The region now attracts 12 million visitors a year. British tourists spend about £430 million annually, those from abroad a further £143 million. Up to 100,000 jobs depend directly or indirectly on tourism.

The industry is vital to a local economy that has suffered in the recession and by the decline of once-traditional, large-scale employing industries.

According to Anthony Goldstone, chairman of the North West Tourist Board, tourism is the only growth industry in many parts of the region. Its continued development is vital to its future economic health.

He said: "Tourism is vital. It is going to be our saviour as a region. The industrial revolution began here and it has been our lifeblood but that situation has changed.

"Unemployment is catastrophic because large-scale engineering has gone and the size of the textile industry is laughable compared with what it was just 10 years ago.

"We have a situation where we either die or take on new types of industry. We cannot compete with the Costa del Sol and it would be daft to talk about it. But we do have the best theatre and music outside London, art galleries, seaside resorts like Blackpool, historic towns like Chester and the Peak District."

Mr Goldstone says recent statistics disclose that only 6 per cent of people in Britain take more than one holiday abroad every year, which meant there was a vast potential of people to be persuaded to visit the North West.

Mr Goldstone added: "How valuable is tourism? Well, if it were to be banned from tomorrow morning, if someone said it is forbidden to visit the North West, this area would die. I am convinced of that. The future is in the leisure industry."

As part of the intensified drive to attract more visitors, the North West Tourist Board has linked up with the three other tourist authorities in the North to form the Northern Consortium of Tourist Boards to mount joint campaigns.

A sign of their confidence is that a roadshow destined for the United States is to visit

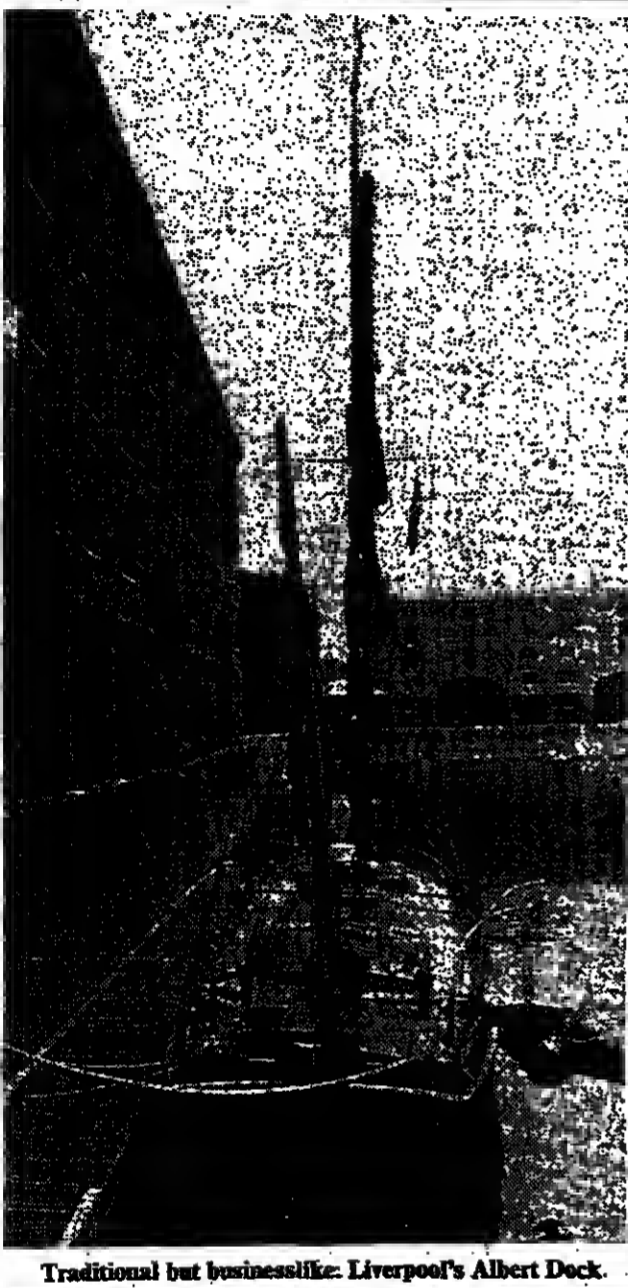
what for many people is the ultimate holiday destination, the West Coast, with its tradition of sand, sun and surf to try to persuade Californians to cross the Atlantic for the pleasures of the North West of England.

Tourism to the North West has increased by 12 per cent in the past two years. Seven million people a year now visit Blackpool's pleasure beach, making it one of the most visited attractions anywhere in Britain.

Tourist board staff acknowledge that their principal problem is still one of image. Jonathan Toeker, the board's development manager, said: "We have always identified that we have an image problem. People still think it is all grim, satanic mills and cobbled streets when in fact much of the area is mainly rural."

Problems with image can also lead to a reluctance on the behalf of investors. The board recently held a seminar for the City to persuade financiers of the benefits of investing in the region.

New developments for the tourist include a £15 million scheme in Blackpool. The borough council, in conjunction with Sunley Leisure, is transforming open-air baths into a complete holiday-under-one-roof centre. It is to be known as the Sand Castle and is due for completion this month.



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Motoring by John Taylor

Nissan Bluebird set to spread wings

The latest Nissan Bluebird saloons and hatchbacks announced this week are not simply replacements for the former and well-established Bluebird saloon and Stanza hatchback, they are precursors of the same models that are to be produced in Great Britain at the Nissan factory at Washington, Co. Durham. This 'green grass' site has now been completed and fitted out with high-technology machinery from Britain, mainland Europe and Japan and the pilot production cars are now being assembled. Full scale production starts in July to build dealer stocks ready for launching in the autumn.



Nissan Bluebird 2.0 SX Suits European tastes

Meantime, the identical model range is being imported from Japan, which will continue to top-up domestic production (starting at 2,000 cars a month) until such time as Washington can cope. The fact that Nissan set sales of 25,000 Bluebirds alone next year is an indication that the company is broadening its horizons and will look beyond the traditional private sector of the lucrative fleet business.

With a range of 1.6, 1.8 and 2.0 litre cars pitched model against model, the Sierra, Cavalier and Montego establishments, plus a high equipment specification and keener pricing, there is little doubt that the newcomer will gain ground, however rough the competition.

Mazda RX-7: High performance and good looks. Mazda RX-7: High performance and good looks. Mazda RX-7: High performance and good looks. Mazda RX-7: High performance and good looks.

left sufficient feel for one to have too worries about road conditions. If it is a long-legged European, had any cause for criticism it was in the legroom. Even with the steering wheel tilted right up, it still felt somewhat cramped, though the makers claim more room than their rivals.

effort into getting this right and the RX-7 sports coupe has become well accepted as a competitive car in its class. The latest version, which goes on sale through selected Mazda dealers this week at £13,995, shows further development along proven lines and with a brand new body which bears more than a passing resemblance to current Porsche styling.

The engine is a twin-rotor unit with single chamber capacities of 654cc each and electronic fuel injection, producing 150bhp at 6,500rpm, this corresponding to a conventional unit of 2,354cc. The transmission is an updated version of the previous five-speed manual gearbox, driving the rear wheels.

suspension uses a modified McPherson coil and strut layout at the front and an independent twin trapezoidal link rear suspension which adjusts to counteract forces imposed upon it.

BMW advertisement listing various models like BMW 524td, BMW 524i, BMW 528i, BMW 528td, BMW 528i, BMW 528td, BMW 528i, BMW 528td.

Porsche advertisement listing models like Porsche 911 Carrera Sport, Porsche 911 Carrera, Porsche 911 Carrera, Porsche 911 Carrera.

VW and Audi advertisement listing models like VW Passat, VW Golf, VW Golf, VW Golf.

General advertisement for Mitsubishi models in stock, including models like Mitsubishi 1200, Mitsubishi 1500, Mitsubishi 1800.

carsave advertisement for Isuzu Piazza Turbo, featuring details about the car's performance and features.

Ferrari advertisement for Ferrari 400 Saloon, highlighting its luxury and performance.

NEW CITROEN CX MODELS advertisement listing various Citroen models and their specifications.

MONZA GSE advertisement for a sports car, detailing its features and price.

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY advertisement for luxury vehicles, including the Phantom and Silver Shadow.

LOTUS advertisement for Lotus sports cars, including the Lotus Evija and Lotus Elise.

Mycar advertisement for car leasing and hire services, offering flexible options for businesses.

Colindale advertisement for car leasing and hire services, specializing in Ford vehicles.

Mercedes-Benz advertisement listing various models and their prices, including the W124 series.

Simpson's Garages advertisement for car repairs and maintenance services.

Jaguar & Daimler advertisement for Jaguar cars, including the XJ6 and XJ6L.

USED JAGUARS & DAIMLERS advertisement listing various used Jaguar models for sale.

GUY SALMON JAGUAR advertisement for Jaguar cars, featuring the Range Rover and other models.

HOWELLS MOTORS advertisement for Jaguar cars, including the XJS and XJ6.

JULIANS OF READING FOR JAGUAR advertisement for Jaguar cars, including the XJ6 and XJ6L.

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HOLIDAY, 10 days, Cairo, Dubai, Istanbul, Singapore...

UP, UP & AWAY
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MOTOR RACING: THE SEASON STARTS WITH THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Hope is the driving force for Mansell on the road to Rio

At 2 pm local time on Sunday afternoon a green light will be switched on over the starting line at the Jacarepanga circuit near Rio de Janeiro to signal the beginning of the 16-race contest for the 1986 world championship.

For the past two years the winners of the Brazilian race (Marlboro McLaren) have gone on to collect both the drivers' and constructors' world championships. This year, it is a favourite for the "double" in what promises to be a particularly close-fought season under revised and tougher regulations.

The latest JPS Lotus, like the McLaren, is an evolutionary model, but an Ayrton Senna has after the new V6 engine has completed its pre-race development programme.

Wales have no fitness problems. Their first game is against United States which should pose few problems for Jonathan Davies and company.

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The teams

MARLBORO McLAREN: Drivers: Alain Prost (F), 2nd 31; Nigel Mansell (UK), 3rd 30; Ayrton Senna (BR), 4th 29; Nelson Piquet (BR), 5th 28; Roberto Guerrero (PR), 6th 27; JJ Lehto (FI), 7th 26; Stefan Johansson (S), 8th 25; Thierry Boutsen (B), 9th 24; Eddie Cheever (US), 10th 23; Andrea de Adamis (IT), 11th 22; Riccardo Patrese (I), 12th 21; Gerhard Berger (A), 13th 20; Michael Schumacher (D), 14th 19; Martin Donohue (I), 15th 18; Jacques Villeneuve (C), 16th 17; Patrick Tambay (F), 17th 16; Aguri Suzuki (J), 18th 15; Alessandro Nannini (I), 19th 14; Ivan Capelli (I), 20th 13; Pierluigi Martini (I), 21st 12; Nicola Pietrangeli (I), 22nd 11; Gabriele Tarquini (I), 23rd 10; Stefano Modena (I), 24th 9; Pierluigi Belli (I), 25th 8; Roberto Benetton (I), 26th 7; Gabriele Tarquini (I), 27th 6; Andrea Montermini (I), 28th 5; Luca Badoer (I), 29th 4; Stefano Modena (I), 30th 3; Nicola Pietrangeli (I), 31st 2; Pierluigi Belli (I), 32nd 1; Roberto Benetton (I), 33rd 0.

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Race dates

BRITISH GRAND PRIX: 19th April, Silverstone, Northamptonshire. Drivers: Nigel Mansell (UK), 2nd 31; Ayrton Senna (BR), 3rd 30; Nelson Piquet (BR), 4th 29; Roberto Guerrero (PR), 5th 28; JJ Lehto (FI), 6th 27; Stefan Johansson (S), 7th 26; Thierry Boutsen (B), 8th 25; Eddie Cheever (US), 9th 24; Riccardo Patrese (I), 10th 23; Gerhard Berger (A), 11th 22; Michael Schumacher (D), 12th 21; Martin Donohue (I), 13th 20; Jacques Villeneuve (C), 14th 19; Patrick Tambay (F), 15th 18; Aguri Suzuki (J), 16th 17; Alessandro Nannini (I), 17th 16; Ivan Capelli (I), 18th 15; Pierluigi Martini (I), 19th 14; Stefano Modena (I), 20th 13; Nicola Pietrangeli (I), 21st 12; Gabriele Tarquini (I), 22nd 11; Roberto Benetton (I), 23rd 10; Luca Badoer (I), 24th 9; Pierluigi Belli (I), 25th 8; Roberto Benetton (I), 26th 7; Gabriele Tarquini (I), 27th 6; Andrea Montermini (I), 28th 5; Luca Badoer (I), 29th 4; Stefano Modena (I), 30th 3; Nicola Pietrangeli (I), 31st 2; Pierluigi Belli (I), 32nd 1; Roberto Benetton (I), 33rd 0.

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RUGBY UNION: NEW SOUTH WALES PLAN FOR A MAGNIFICENT SEVENS

Flair on the field and off it Scots name 26-strong tour party

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, Sydney
Andrew Stack's grand slam 1984 Australians gave Britain an idea of the slick, aggressive, attractive rugby currently being played in the southern hemisphere.

The New South Wales Union, though 112 years old, has lacked a home of its own and the development of the existing Concord ground.

In line with this aggressive marketing concept, the state has set up AS3,000,000 into a television advertising campaign designed to attract people to rugby union at a time when Sydney is crisscrossed by the new Concord Oval ground here.

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Merchiston approach master class

Schools Rugby by Michael Stevenson
Merchiston Castle School's claim to be among the most successful in Scotland is suspect only if one focuses attention on their indifferent start to the season.

The school's main strength is in the backs and the back row, Martin, Logan, Mair and Evans-Jobling-Furner, and the captain and prop, Alan Taylor.

Merchiston carved a unique niche in Scottish rugby as the only school to win the Golden Acres Sevens and the Merchiston Sevens.

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TRAVEL SAVERS

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CITY OF DUBLIN
LONDON

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Christopher Davalle

BBC 1
6.00 Coffee AM
6.30 Breakfast News with Nick Ross and Debbie Greenwood...

TV AM
8.15 Good Morning Britain
presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen...

DECEPTIONS (BBC1)
9.30pm opens with a couple making love in the cabin of a cruise ship...

BBC 2
6.55 Open University: Education - Can You Hear Me?
7.20 Weekend Outlook...

CHOICE
hair and flat heels and Steph turns herself into a glamour goddess...

CHANNEL 4
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster, introduced by Brough Scott...

Peter Waymark
6.20 Pick of the Week with Margaret Howard (p)
6.30 Top News...

Radio 4
5.55 am Shipping 6.00 News
6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News...

ART GALLERIES
ANNEX GALLERY 42 Old Bond Street
BRITISH SCULPTURE SOCIETY...

CINEMAS
ADMIRALTY 101 Strand
ALPHAVILLE 101 Strand
ANTHONY POPPAY 9-29...

CONCERTS
SARAJEVO MALL 509 Piccadilly
WIFE BEGINS AT FORTY
APOLLO THEATRE CC 437...

EXHIBITIONS
WORTHEN LIBRARY, 61 Finsbury Square
OPERA & BALLET
COLLEEN & BROS 3181, CC 240...

THEATRE
PALACE THEATRE 437 Strand
GLENNY GARY & BOSS
LA CAGE AUX FOLLES...

10.15 The Harlequin Years
Musical (in 7 acts after the First World War)
11.00 Omnibus: Rumsy...

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 10.00pm)
7.30 and 8.30: Cricket: Third Test: West Indies v England...

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 7.30am until 8.30pm and at 12.00 midnight
8.00am Adrian Jolly 7.30 Mike Read 8.30 Simon Bates 12.30pm...

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 News: 7.00 News: 7.29 Twenty Four Hours: 7.30 Jazz from Europe...

FREQUENCIES

Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/277m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/433m...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRANADA As London except: 1.30 Family: The 2.30 Top Notch: 2.30 Sport: 2.30 Cooking Reports...

GRAMPIAN

1.30-3.30 Film: Take My Life (High Wycombe) 8.00-7.20 North Tonight...

CHANNEL

As London except: 1.30pm News: 1.30pm and Mrs 2.00 Arcade 2.30 The Bard...

THE MUSICAL

THE MUSICAL
GIGI
ANGRY HOUSEWIVES

England need 250-run start

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Bridgetown
If today's third Test match between England and West Indies, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, were to be played on handicap, England might expect a start of 250 runs or thereabouts.

They have played five Tests here in that time and won them all by huge margins... For a side playing well England's task would be daunting enough.

There was further bad news yesterday when Ellison, who has had a stomach bug, found that one lap of the ground was all he could manage.



First blood to the bookmakers: Macs Reef (nearest camera), the outsider of four, races away from Tremblant and Bold Arrangement (checked cap) to win the feature event on the opening day of the Flat season at Doncaster. Racing, page 29 (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

SNOOKER

Wales into last four as Griffiths excels

By Sydney Friskin
Wales, who were winners in 1979 and 1980, reached the semi-finals of the World Team Championship at Bourne...

FOOTBALL

Soviet green light spares the red faces in England

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
After a seemingly interminable delay, the Football Association at last confirmed yesterday that England's fixture against the Soviet Union is to take place as planned in Tbilisi next Wednesday.

GOLF

Ballesteros lifted by support of players

From John Ballantine
New Orleans
Severiano Ballesteros' hopes of being reinstated to the US PGA tour have increased following a meeting here at which his fellow professionals supported the case for his ban to be lifted.

ICE SKATING

Thomas close to world title

From John Hennessy, Geneva
We shall see what Debi Thomas, the United States figure-skating champion, is made of this evening. She has drawn the limelight and the pressure on herself by establishing a clear lead in the world championship here after the first two stages of the competition.

Why FA should be eyeing the man from Barcelona

From David Miller, Turin
For the first time since Jimmy Hogan and others some 50 years ago, an English coach is the most wanted man in European football, and on account of his achievements outside the environment of the British game.

TENNIS

Another victory for Dyke

Brussels (AP) - Broderick Dyke, of Australia, followed his surprise 6-3, 6-3 victory over the Wimbledon champion, Boris Becker, on Wednesday by beating Libor Pimek, of Czechoslovakia, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 yesterday to reach the quarter-finals of the Belgian indoor championships.

VENABLES 'will leave in June'

Terry Venables will leave Barcelona in June, a club spokesman announced yesterday. The spokesman, who refused to be identified, said 44-year-old Venables had already written to the club president saying he would not be renewing his present contract.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Feeling the strain: Eamonn Martin's withdrawal with an adductor strain is a severe setback for England's chances of regaining the world cross country team title in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on Sunday. Martin was one of five current and former English national champions in the team which will still mount their strongest challenge to the Ethiopians, who have won for the last five years. Martin said yesterday: "It's not a serious injury; it's just come at exactly the wrong time." There is a possibility that Martin will travel with the team and hope that the injury to his left leg will respond to rest and treatment. But he thought it unlikely yesterday, in which case Kevin Capper from Liverpool, the first reserve, will take his place.
Liverpool run: Dawn Run, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, will have her next race at Liverpool on April 3 in preference to the Irish Grand National three days earlier. Her objective is the £12,000 Whitbread Gold Label Cup on the opening day of the Grand National meeting.
Roberts talks: The Tottenham manager, Peter Shreeve, yesterday held peace talks with his England defender, Graham Roberts, and is confident that he can keep him happy at White Hart Lane. Roberts asked for a transfer this week because of financial worries.
Goodwill show: Moscow (Reuters) - Some 3,000 athletes from nearly 50 nations have entered the Goodwill Games in Moscow.

Prague boost

Alan Cooke, the England number three, has recovered from a hamstring injury and will play in the European table tennis championships in Prague from April 5 to 13. Desmond Douglas, who leads the England chase for titles, will decide after the championships whether to stay in Britain or accept one of the lucrative contract offers he has had from abroad.

High hopes

Despite a shortfall of £150,000 in the amount needed to run this year's world four-in-hand driving championships, at Ascot from August 13-17, Prince Philip, the president of the championships, said yesterday that he and the committee are confident they will find the necessary sponsors to reach their target of £250,000. They intend to "the best ever".

A record year for old firm

An marvellous third round of 68, which equalled the record for the event, propelled Belle Robertson and Mary McKenna to a deserved victory in the 21st Avia Watches women's foursomes championships at The Berkshire yesterday. Mrs Robertson, who won the British Open strokeplay title last year at the age of 49, and Mrs McKenna, who is seeking this year to gain a record ninth appearance in the Curtis Cup, came from three strokes behind overnight to lead by four strokes. So in the fourth and final round in the afternoon of the Red Course, Mrs Robertson and Miss McKenna could afford to play conservatively and a closing 79 gave them a record-equalling 72-hole aggregate of 298 - six over par - and a two-shot win over Linda Bayman and Maureen Gardner. Mrs Robertson and Miss McKenna took command with eight birdies in the morning on the Blue Course - five of them in an outstanding outward half of 31. LEADING SCORES: 298: C Robertson and M McKenna, 75, 75, 68, 79, 306; J E Bayman and J Gardner, 78, 72, 75, 77, 302; P Johnson and L Bayman, 72, 76, 75, 78, 298; S Macintosh and T Hamwood, 75, 79, 73, 73, 301; J Hill and J Morley, 77, 75, 78, 77, 312; P Smith and J Collingham, 80, 76, 77, 78, 314; K Mitchell and H Wray, 81, 77, 77, 76; D Heron and C Hayles, 78, 81, 78, 78; C Caldwell and L Simpson, 77, 74, 75, 88, 315; H Dobson and A Johns, 74, 82, 78, 80. More football, page 30